United Nations A/58/454

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 November 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 65

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miguel **Carbo** (Ecuador)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 56/17 of 29 November 2001.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 29 September 2003, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 62 to 80, which was held at the 2nd to 10th meetings, from 6 to 10 and from 13 to 16 October (see A/C.1/58/PV.2-10). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 11th to 15th meetings, from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/58/PV.11-15). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 16th to 23rd meetings, from 27 to 30 October and from 3 to 6 November (see A/C.1/58/PV.16-23).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.11 and amendments contained in document A/C.1/58/L.58

5. At the 14th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, submitted a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)" (A/C.1/58/L.11). Subsequently, Nauru joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

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6. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it amendments (A/C.1/58/L.58) to the draft resolution, submitted by Spain, by which:

(a) Operative paragraph 2 would be replaced with the following text:

"2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet signed and/or ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible";

(b) Operative paragraph 3 would be deleted.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain withdrew the amendments to the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.11 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[2] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Taking note of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[3] affirming that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

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[1] See A/50/426, annex.

[2] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.

[3] S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and that lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] that have note yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[5]

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[5] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).